

12 Design Patent Application 29/000,382. Another valve cover that also may be suitable for use on a face mask of this invention is shown in Design Patent Application 29/000,384. The disclosures of these applications are incorporated here by reference.

A version marked up to show changes made to the specification relative to the previous version of the specification is attached.

In the Drawings

Please add new Figure 8 to this application.

In the Claims

Please add claims 65 and 66 to this application:

65. A method of making a filtering face mask, which method comprises:

(a) providing (i) a valve seat that comprises an orifice and a seal surface, wherein the

3 orifice allows air to pass therethrough and is surrounded by the seal surface, and (ii) a single flexible flap;

(b) supporting the single flexible flap non-centrally and operatively relative to the orifice of the valve seat to form an exhalation valve, the single flexible flap being supported such that: (i) the flexible flap has, in its closed state, an imposed curved profile in a cross-sectional side view thereof, which imposed curved profile extends from a first point where a stationary portion of the flexible flap is supported on the valve seat to a second point where a free portion of the flexible flap contacts the seal surface; (ii) the free portion of the flexible flap is pressed towards the seal surface of the valve seat in a closed state of the exhalation valve under any orientation thereof; (iii) the free portion of the flexible flap is held in the closed state under any orientation of the valve, at least in part, by virtue of the imposed curved profile thereof; and (iv) the free portion of the flexible flap represents the only free portion of the flap and can flex away from the seal surface so as to permit exhaled air to pass through the orifice and to provide an open state of the exhalation valve to make the flexible flap out of contact with the seal surface at the second point while the stationary portion of the flexible flap remains essentially stationary at the first point; and

(c) attaching the exhalation valve to a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a person, the exhalation valve being attached to the mask body such that the first point is disposed above the second point when the mask is viewed from the front in an upright position.

66. A method of making a filtering face mask, which method comprises:

(a) providing (i) a valve seat that comprises an orifice, a seal surface, and a flap-retaining surface wherein the orifice allows air to pass therethrough and is surrounded by the seal surface, (ii) a single flexible flap, and (iii) a valve cover that is joined to the valve seat;

C 3 (b) supporting the single flexible flap non-centrally and operatively relative to the orifice of the valve seat to form an exhalation valve, the single flexible flap being supported such that: (i) the flexible flap has, in its closed state, an imposed curved profile in a cross-sectional side view thereof, which imposed curved profile extends from a first point where a stationary portion of the flexible flap is supported on the valve seat to a second point where a free portion of the flexible flap contacts the seal surface; (ii) the free portion of the flexible flap is pressed towards the seal surface of the valve seat in a closed state of the exhalation valve under any orientation thereof; (iii) the free portion of the flexible flap is held in the closed state under any orientation of the valve, at least in part, by virtue of the imposed curved profile thereof; (iv) the free portion of the flexible flap represents the only free portion of the flap and can flex away from the seal surface so as to permit exhaled air to pass through the orifice and to provide an open state of the exhalation valve to make the flexible flap out of contact with the seal surface at the second point while the stationary portion of the flexible flap remains essentially stationary at the first point; and (v) the stationary portion of the flexible flap is held between the flap retaining surface of the valve seat and a second surface that is associated with the valve cover when the valve cover is secured to the valve seat, wherein the imposed curved profile extends at least from where the flexible flap contacts the second surface associated with the valve cover to where the second portion of the flexible flap contacts the seal surface of the valve seat when the exhalation valve is in its closed state; and

(c) attaching the exhalation valve to a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a person, the exhalation valve being attached to the mask body such that the first point is disposed above the second point when the mask is viewed from the front in an upright position.